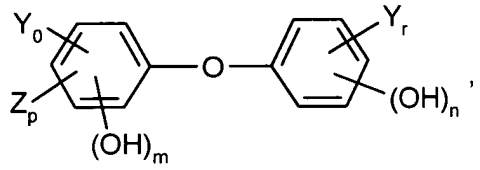
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended):A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with a composition comprising

from 0.001 to 10 % based on weight of said composition of component (a) which is a halogenated hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula

(1) 

wherein

Y is chlorine or bromine,

Z is SO_2H, NO_2; or C_1-C_4alkyl;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 or 2;

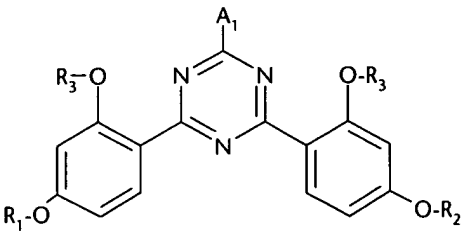
r is from 0 to 3;

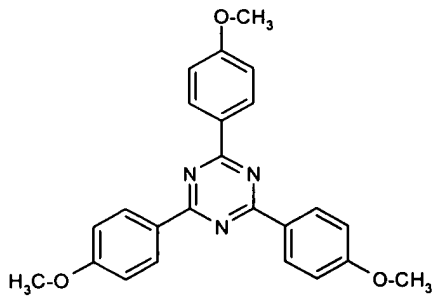
o is from 1 to 3; and

p is 0, 1 or 2;

from 0.01 to 2~~0.05 to 1~~ % based on weight of said composition of component (b) which is a skin-lightening substance selected from the group consisting of ~~kojic acid~~, arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, guaiol, ellagic acid and ester compounds thereof and fluorescent whiteners; and

from 0.1 to 15 % based on weight of said composition of component (c) which is a triazine UV absorber compound of formula

(5) 

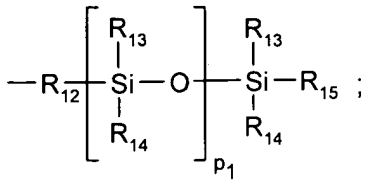
(5f) 

or

wherein

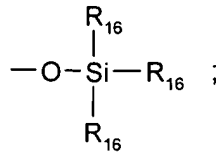
R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other C_1-C_{18}alkyl; C_2-C_{18}alkenyl; a radical of formula

$-CH_2-CH(-OH)-CH_2-O-T_1$; or

R_1 and R_2 are a radical of formula  ;

R_{12} is a direct bond; a straight-chain or branched C_1-C_4alkylene radical or a radical of formula

$-C_{m_1}H_{2m_1}-$ or $-C_{m_1}H_{2m_1}-O-$;

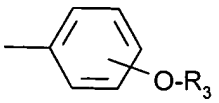
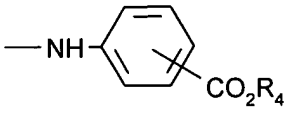
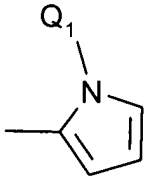
R_{13}, R_{14} and R_{15} are each independently of the others C_1-C_{18}alkyl; C_1-C_{18}alkoxy or a radical of formula  ;

R_{16} is C_1-C_5alkyl;

m_1 and m_3 are each independently of the other from 1 to 4;

p_1 is 0 or a number from 1 to 5;

A_1 is a radical of formula

 ,  or  wherein

R_3 is hydrogen; C_1-C_{10}alkyl, $-(CH_2CHR_5-O)_{n1}-R_4$; or a radical of formula $-CH_2-CH(-OH)-CH_2-O-T_1$;

R_4 is hydrogen; M; C_1-C_5alkyl; or a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_{m_2}-O-T_1$;

R_5 is hydrogen; or methyl;

T_1 is hydrogen; or C_1-C_8alkyl;

Q_1 is C_1-C_{18}alkyl;

M is a metal cation;

m_2 is from 1 to 4; and

n_1 is 1-16.

2. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1)

m is 0; or 1;

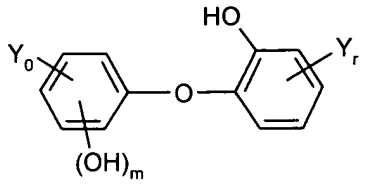
n is 1; or 2;

o is from 1 to 3;

p is 0; or 1; and

r is 1 or 2.

3. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula

(2) 

wherein

m is 0; or 1;

o is from 1 to 3; and

r is 1 or 2.

4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein in formula (2)

m is 0;

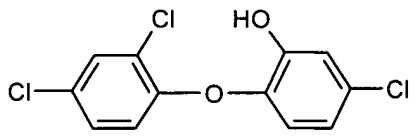
and o and r are as defined in claim 3.

5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein

o is 1 or 2; and

r is 1.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula

(3) 

.

7. (cancelled).

8. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula (1) is used simultaneously for the antimicrobial treatment of the skin and mucosa and integumentary appendages.

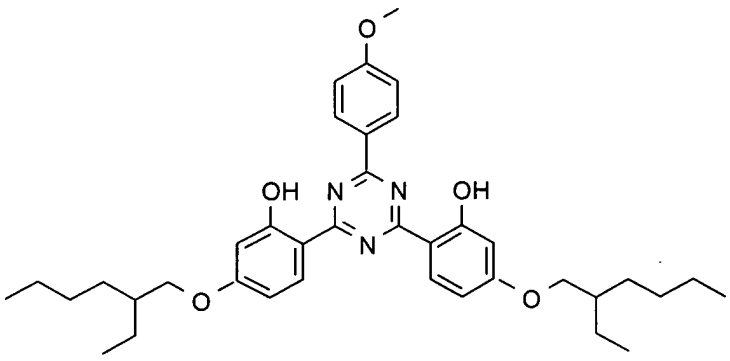
9-10. (cancelled).

11. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of components (a) : (b) is from 1 : 99 to 99 : 1 by weight.

12-13. (cancelled).

14. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula

(5e)



15-29. (cancelled).